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EXHIBIT # 2
DATE Jan 19th 2011
130

TO: Members of the House State Administration Committee
FROM: Joy Bruck, AARP Montana State President
RE: AARP support of HB 130

Members of the House State Administration Committee, my name is Joy Bruck, State President of AARP Montana. Although AARP opposed a bill on this topic last session, AARP is here today in support of HB 130 because this bill contains important provisions that create a mail-in ballot system that encourages voter participation, but protects against fraud.

Some our members will mourn the day that their local favorite polling place is no longer. This bill changes an institution, but change is necessary given the difficulties of staffing and running polling places. We are hopeful that HB 130 creates a system in such a way to encourage voter participation and be able to handle the logical challenges of voting by mail. We like the flexibility of the new system which allows ballots to be mailed, deposited at convenient sites, or delivered to the County election office. Finally, this is a system that our election administrators seem more confident will work.

Our thanks to the Secretary of State for her leadership on bringing parties together to work on a much improved bill for consideration this session. We encourage the committee to approve HB 130 as introduced.